(5) THE COTTON GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1948 (L.A. BILL No. 28 OF 1948).

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I move—

'*that the Cotton, Ginning and Pressing Factories (Madras Amendment) Bill*, 1948 (*L.A. Bill No.* 28 *of* 1948), *as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration at once.*'

" This is a short and non-controversial Bill. We have got the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act of 1925, according to which these factories were required to maintain certain registers and keep some records of the quantity of cotton ginned and pressed, the system of marking, etc., and also to send on some weekly reports, etc. It was one of the recommendations of the Indian Central Cotton Committee that the present Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act does not contain any provision which empowers the Government to check malpractices, such as watering, and trying to mix different varieties of cotton, false packing, and non-removal of foreign matter, etc., or to penalize the use of faulty scales and weights, so much so, it affects the vital reputation of our cotton in commercial circles, if these malpractices are not checked. Moreover, the original Act does not contain a provision to deal with these. This Bill was prepared long ago, but for some reason or other, it has had a chequered career. The Advisers' regime thought that the Bill ought to be deferred till after the end of the war, for some reasons which I do not know. I may say, that it was practically during the war-time, that the corruption was rampant very much, in the areas of Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Tiruppur. And on the 8th of October 1942, the Advisers' regime decided that this Bill should be deferred. Now that the war is over, we have taken it, because we thought it necessary to have sufficient powers to prevent these malpractices in ginning and pressing factories. So, the original Bill is now sought to be amended suitably, and I believe the sections embodying the amendments have been printed and circulated to the hon. Members of this House, and they could easily see what the purpose of these amendments are."

The motion was put and carried. The Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 1 and the Preamble were put one by one and carried.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I move—

'*that the Bill be passed into law*'."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.